

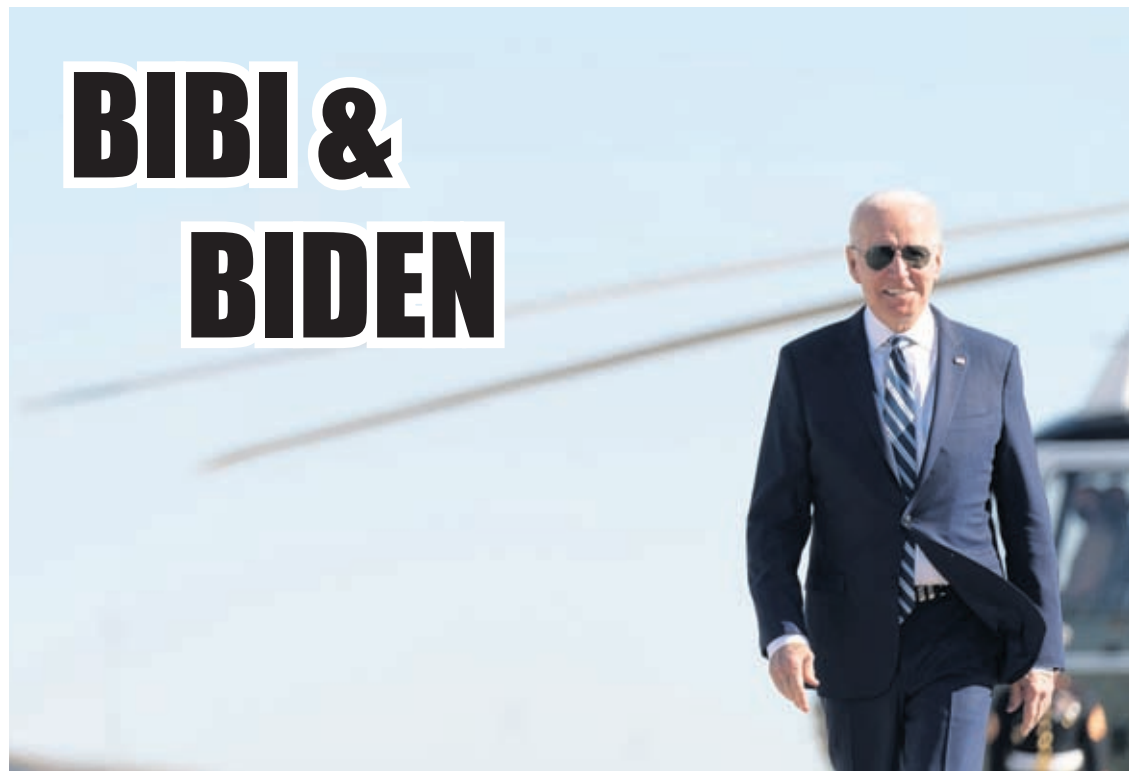
Biden and Netanyahu face first rough test of relationship

By AAMER MADHANI and ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

President Joe Biden's efforts to persuade Benjamin Netanyahu to halt military strikes against Hamas in Gaza are plunging the two leaders into a difficult early test of the U.S.-Israeli relationship. The two have had other moments of tension over the years, and their current differences over the war in Gaza create a challenge that Biden was trying mightily to avoid. Biden told Netanyahu in a telephone call Wednesday that he expected "significant de-escalation" of the fighting by day's end, according to the White House. But the prime minister came right back with a public declaration that

he was "determined to continue" the Gaza operation "until its objective is achieved." Netanyahu did allow that he "greatly appreciates the support of the American president," but said nonetheless that Israel would push ahead. This is not where Biden had hoped to expend his time and energy. Early in Biden's term, foreign policy has taken a back seat. The president has tried to avoid getting bogged down in an interminable effort to establish an elusive Mideast peace that many of his White House predecessors have dedicated precious time to without much success.

Continued on next page



President Joe Biden arrives to board Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Associated Press



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Continued from Front

This is not the first time Biden and Netanyahu have been publicly at odds.

As vice president, Biden kept Netanyahu waiting for a dinner meeting after the Israeli leader embarrassed President Barack Obama by approving the construction of 1,600 new apartments in disputed east Jerusalem in the middle of Biden's 2010 visit to Israel.

Netanyahu sought to patch up hurt feelings at the dinner. But after the meal, Biden admonished the prime minister in a statement, saying the move undermined a U.S. effort to persuade the Palestinians to resume peace talks.

Later, Obama and Netanyahu's relationship cratered as White House aides questioned the Israeli's willingness to find accommodations with Palestinians and Sunni Arab countries to build a lasting peace in the region. Netanyahu, for his part, was furious about White House efforts to reach a nuclear deal with Iran.

Amid the tension between Obama and Netanyahu, Biden went out of his way during a 2014 speech before the Jewish Federations of North America to say that he and Netanyahu were "still buddies," albeit with a somewhat complicated relationship. Biden noted that he had once inscribed a photo for Netanyahu with "Bibi I don't agree with a damn thing you say but I love you."



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures as he speaks during a briefing to ambassadors to Israel at the Hakirya military base in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Associated Press

In late 2019, during a question and answer session with voters on the campaign trail, Biden called Netanyahu "counterproductive" and an "extreme right" leader. But he also accused Palestinian leaders of "fomenting" the conflict and "baiting everyone who is Jewish." And he suggested that some on the U.S. political left give the Palestinian Authority "a pass" when criticizing Israeli leadership.

Netanyahu had a notably better relationship with President Donald Trump, whom he praised for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv and brokering a normalization of relations between Israel and Gulf neighbors Bahrain

and the United Arab Emirates as well as Morocco and Sudan.

Biden's call on Netanyahu to de-escalate the fighting came as political and international pressure mounted on the U.S. president to intervene more forcefully to push for an end to the hostilities. Biden, until Wednesday, had avoided pressing Israel more directly and publicly for a cease-fire, or conveying that level of urgency for ending Israeli airstrikes targeting Hamas in the thickly populated Gaza Strip.

His administration has relied instead on what officials described as "quiet, intensive" diplomacy, including quashing a U.N. Security Council statement that

would have addressed a cease-fire. The administration's handling opened a divide between Biden and some Democratic lawmakers, dozens of whom have called for a cease-fire.

Egypt and some others have worked without success to broker a halt to fighting, while Hamas officials indicated publicly they would keep up their rocket barrages into Israel as long as Israel continued airstrikes.

Netanyahu, in his statement, made clear he had no plans to immediately wind down Israeli strikes targeting Hamas leaders and supply tunnels in Gaza, a 25-mile by 6-mile strip of territory that is home to more than 2 million people.

"With every passing day we are striking at more of the terrorist organizations' capabilities, targeting more senior commanders, toppling more terrorist buildings and hitting more weaponry stockpiles," Netanyahu said.

The fighting, the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence since 2014, has killed at least 219 Palestinians and 12 people in Israel.

Top Biden administration officials have stressed to the Israelis in recent days that time is not on their side as international objections mount to their operations and domestic pressure builds on Biden, according to a person familiar with the ongoing discussions.

In talks with the Israelis, administration officials have pointed to recent history — Hezbollah's stature rising in the region after its 34-day war with Israel in 2006 — to make the case for limiting the time of military action. But Israeli officials have argued to the administration that a slightly prolonged campaign to degrade Hamas' military capabilities is necessary and in Israel's interest, according to the person familiar with the talks. Hamas has sought to portray its rocket barrages as a defense of Jerusalem. The Israelis have argued to Biden administration officials that that message is losing resonance as mob violence against Arabs in mixed Israeli cities, including Lod, has been tamped down. □



Cadets stand during the commencement for the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Associated Press

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — President Joe Biden on Wednesday used his first commencement address as commander in chief to tell Coast Guard Acad-

Biden celebrates Coast Guard, stresses role on world stage

emy graduates they will play a vital role as the United States reasserts itself on the world stage.

Biden, speaking at the Coast Guard's sun-soaked Connecticut campus, told the 240 graduates that "the world is changing" and told them that they are at "significant inflection point."

"The best way to meet the wide array of threats we meet today is by investing in America's enduring advantages," said Biden,

"and ensure we're operating from a position of strength."

The president used the speech to position the United States as a defender of global rules, trade and marine law, specifically in the South China Sea and the Arctic. Following the inward-looking presidency of Donald Trump, Biden has pushed for the U.S. to prove that democracy still works at home so it can lead by example across the globe and compete

with rising autocracies.

But Biden made no mention of several current global hotspots, including the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, for which hours earlier he called for a cease-fire. Biden, who also spoke at the New London academy as vice president in 2013, did stress that the Coast Guard played in responding to more frequent extreme weather, such as hurricanes, due to climate change. □

NY attorney general says Trump Org probe is now criminal

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York attorney general's office said Tuesday that it is conducting a criminal investigation into former President Donald Trump's business empire, expanding what had previously been a civil probe.

"We have informed the Trump Organization that our investigation into the company is no longer purely civil in nature," Fabien Levy, a spokesperson for Attorney General Letitia James, said in a statement. "We are now actively investigating the Trump Organization in a criminal capacity, along with the Manhattan DA," Levy said.

James' investigators are working with the Manhattan district attorney's office, which has been conducting a criminal investigation into Trump and his company, the Trump Organization, for two years. James and District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. are both Democrats.

James' office offered no explanation for what prompted the change in its approach to the investigation or why it chose to



In this Tuesday, July 7, 2020 file photo, President Donald Trump listens during a "National Dialogue on Safely Reopening America's Schools," event in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

announce it publicly. CNN was first to report the development.

Levy declined further comment. A spokesperson for Vance declined comment. A message seeking comment was left with a lawyer for Trump and spokespeople for the former president and his company.

In the past, the Republican

ex-president has decried the investigations as part of a Democratic "witch hunt." James' disclosure of a widening investigation is not necessarily an indication that she is planning to bring criminal charges. In New York, if that were to happen, the state attorney general can do so through a county district attorney,

like Vance, or with a referral from Gov. Andrew Cuomo or a state agency. James' civil investigation and Vance's criminal probe had overlapped in some areas, including examining whether Trump or his businesses manipulated the value of assets — inflating them in some cases and minimizing them in others

— to gain favorable loan terms and tax benefits.

Vance's investigation also included a look at hush-money payments paid to women on Trump's behalf and the propriety of tax write-offs the Trump Organization claimed on millions of dollars in consulting fees it paid, including money that went to Trump's daughter, Ivanka.

Vance's office hasn't publicly said what it is investigating, citing grand jury secrecy rules, but some details have come out during a legal battle to get access to Trump's tax records, which it finally obtained in February.

As part of her civil investigation, James' office issued subpoenas to local governments in November 2019 for records pertaining to Trump's estate north of Manhattan, Seven Springs and a tax benefit Trump received for placing land there into a conservation trust.

James was also looking at similar issues relating to a Trump office building in New York City, a hotel in Chicago and a golf course near Los Angeles. □

Associated Press

Texas governor signs law banning abortions early as 6 weeks

By PAUL J. WEBER

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Thursday signed a law that bans abortions in Texas before many women even know they are pregnant and differs singularly from similar efforts nationwide: leaving enforcement to private citizens, who can sue doctors or anyone who helps a woman get an abortion.

The law puts Texas in line with more than a dozen other states that ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected, possibly as early as six weeks. It would take effect in September, but federal courts have mostly blocked states from enforcing similar measures.

But with the Supreme Court this week agreeing to take up a Mississippi law that bans abortion after

15 weeks of pregnancy, abortion rights activists worry that a ruling favorable to the state could lay the groundwork for allowing even more restrictions, including so-called heartbeat bills.

"The life of every unborn child with a heartbeat will be saved from the ravages of abortion," Abbott said in a bill signing at his office.

Texas' version is unique in that it prohibits state officials from enforcing the ban. Instead, it allows anyone — even someone outside Texas — to sue an abortion provider or anyone else who may have helped someone get an abortion after the limit, and seek financial damages of up to \$10,000 per defendant.

Critics say that provision would allow abortion opponents to flood the courts

with lawsuits to harass doctors, patients, nurses, domestic violence counselors, a friend who drove a woman to a clinic, or even a parent who paid for a procedure.

Before the bill reached Abbott's desk, abortion rights groups signaled they would challenge the law.

"The goal is clear: to relentlessly attack our reproductive rights until abortion is a right in name only. Passing these bills is not leadership, it is cruelty and extremism," said Alexis McGill Johnson, president of Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

Advanced technology can detect an electric signal flutter as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, even though the embryo isn't yet a fetus and doesn't have a heart. An embryo is termed a fetus beginning in the 11th week of pregnancy,



In this March 30, 2021, file photo, pro-life demonstrators gather in the rotunda at the Capitol while the Senate debated anti-abortion bills in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

medical experts say. Texas law currently bans abortion after 20 weeks, with exceptions for a woman with a life-threatening medical condition or if the fetus has a severe abnormality. More than 90% of abortions take place in the

first 13 weeks of a woman's pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Supreme Court will probably hear the Mississippi case in the fall, with a decision likely in spring 2022. □



In this Oct. 25, 2018 file photo, Monument Valley is shown in Utah. The Navajo Nation has by far the largest land mass of any Native American tribe in the country.

Associated Press

Navajo Nation surpasses Cherokee to become largest U.S. tribe

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The Navajo Nation has by far the largest land mass of any Native American tribe in the country. Now, it's boasting the largest enrolled population, too. Navajos clamored to enroll

or fix their records as the tribe offered hardship assistance payments from last year's federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. That boosted the tribe's rolls from about 306,000 to nearly 400,000

citizens.

The figure tops the Cherokee Nation's enrollment of 392,000. But it, too, has been growing, said tribal spokeswoman Julie Hubbard. The Oklahoma tribe has been receiving about 200 more applications per month from potential enrollees, leaving Navajo's position at the top unstable.

The numbers matter because tribes often are allocated money based on their number of citizens. Each of the 574 federally recognized tribes determines how to count its population. Navajo, for example, requires a one-quarter blood quantum to enroll. Cherokee primarily uses lineal descent.

Tribal governments received \$4.8 billion from the CARES Act based on federal housing population data for tribes, which some said was badly skewed. The Treasury Department recently revised the methodology and said it would correct the most substantial disparities.

The Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, one of three tribes that sued the Treasury Department over the payments, said it's satisfied with an additional \$5.2 million it's set to receive. The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in Florida and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas would get \$825,000 and \$864,000 under the new methodology. Both said those amounts didn't make sense when broken down to a per-person figure. They plan to continue their fight in court.

"We just cannot accept this as it is," Carol Heckman, an attorney for Prairie Band, said in a court hearing last week. "We're happy to keep talking about it, but Treasury would have to sweeten the pie."

The Treasury Department will avoid much of the problems it encountered with CARES Act funding in the distribution of the \$20 billion for tribes under the American Rescue Plan Act.

□



Job Opportunity

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Position Profile

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- Interpret and analyze financial reports, track business performance, and advise the General Manager, Department Managers, and Board of Directors on financial, operational, and administrative improvements.
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- Report financial information in an accurate and timely manner to internal and external customers (management team, Board of Directors, tax authorities, Central Bank, audit firm).
- Implement and maintain internal control policies and procedures throughout the resort to ensure the safeguarding of the resort's assets.
- Implement and maintain accounting and finance department procedures.
- Initiate process improvements to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the department's operation. Work with department managers and advise the General Manager and Board of Directors of process improvement opportunities throughout the resort's operations to improve profitability.
- Coordinate audits by the resort's audit firm, tax authorities, Central Bank, etc.

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Angry French police hold huge, emotional rally at parliament

ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Thousands of French police officers took part in a huge demonstration outside parliament Wednesday to press for a law that protects the protectors who are feeling vulnerable to attacks, angry and useless.

The rally by security forces represented a bold and unusual move for members of an institution that stresses duty and discretion. The protest drew civilian supporters and morphed into what looked like a campaign stop for politicians ahead of regional elections next month and a presidential race next year, with security a top concern.

Hard-line Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin showed up at the start, squeezing through a packed crowd of hundreds waving labor union flags. Representatives from the far-right National Rally and a multitude of other parties were expected to attend. The politicians clearly hope to send a message that security matters and police officers, a considerable voting pool, are their friends.

"You must help us, Mr. Minister," an officer said with



French police officers demonstrate sWednesday, May 19, 2021 in Paris.

Associated Press

emotion to Darmanin.

"Every morning when I awake, every night when I sleep, I think of you," Darmanin said, adding that his presence at the protest was "normal" given his role as France's top cop.

Police unions gave notice ahead of the rally that politicians would not be allowed to make speeches. "No one will confiscate the words of police or citizens," said a statement by 10 unions holding the demon-

stration.

Organizers said about 35,000 people, both officers and members of the public, attended the rally, which spilled across a main boulevard to the Seine River. With two officers killed in recent weeks - one in a terrorist attack and another by a suspected 19-year-old delinquent - and constant encounters with young people who throw objects and fireworks, police are angry.

"Paid to Serve, Not to Die" read a giant banner in front of the National Assembly, the lower chamber of parliament.

"We hope this is the starting point for real political action," a ranking officer who belongs to the police chiefs' union, SCPN, said. Rallying in front of the French parliament is "to concentrate our anger where the laws are made. We've reached a point of no return," said the officer,

who identified himself only as Olivier B. because union officials, not the rank-and-file, typically make public statements.

Police are calling for a law that guarantees jail time for those who assault them and for a justice system that punishes the small-time offenders they arrest and rearrest after courts set them free.

Polls show broad support for police, but critics cite instances of brutality, including a man who died this year after a beating. A group of organizations filed a lawsuit in January contending systemic racism in France's security forces.

Officers reject what they label as "police bashing," saying that it undermines their work.

President Emmanuel Macron, who is expected to run for reelection in 2022, has put security high on his agenda.

However, police want more than a list of promises, such as guaranteeing a 30-year prison sentence for anyone convicted of killing an officer.

A minute of silence was observed to honor police officers killed in the line of duty. □

China protests latest U.S. Navy passage through Taiwan Strait

BEIJING (AP) — China on Wednesday protested the latest passage by a U.S. Navy ship through the Taiwan Strait, calling it a provocation that undermined peace and stability in the region.

The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet said that the guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit on Tuesday in accordance with international law. The passage "demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

"The United States military will continue to fly, sail, and operate anywhere international law allows," the Navy said in a statement.

While the strait is in international waters, China claims self-governing Taiwan as its own territory and regards

the U.S. Navy's presence in the area as a show of support for the island's democratic government.

In a statement on the De-

fense Ministry website, spokesperson for the Eastern Theater Command Col. Zhang Chunhui said the U.S. actions were "send-

ing wrong signals to the 'Taiwan independence' forces, deliberately disrupting and sabotaging the regional situation and endangering peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

He said Chinese forces tracked and monitored the ship and "strictly guarded against all threats and provocations."

China last month complained that activity by U.S. military ships and surveillance planes directed at it has increased significantly under President Joe Biden. It was particularly disturbed by close-in observation of the Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning and its battle group by a U.S. destroyer in the South China Sea, as advertised by a widely distributed photo of U.S. officers

relaxing on deck with the Chinese flattop well within sight.

China accused the U.S. of having "seriously interfered with the Chinese side's training activities and seriously threatened the safety of navigation and personnel on the both sides."

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian added to the criticism at a daily briefing Wednesday, saying "China's determination to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering."

The U.S. action is "not a commitment to so-called freedom and openness, but a deliberate interference and sabotage of regional peace and stability," Zhao said. "The international community will have its judgement." □



In this Aug. 1, 2019, file photo, a TV screen showing the U.S. Navy fleet sail in formation near the models of Liaoning aircraft carrier with navy frigates and submarines on display at the military museum in Beijing.

Associated Press

Qatar detains Kenyan guard who wrote on laborers' struggles

By JON GAMBRELL

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A Kenyan who wrote compelling dispatches under a pseudonym about the challenges of living as a low-wage worker in Qatar and advocated for their rights has been detained under unclear circumstances in the energy-rich nation.

The arrest of Malcolm Bidali draws renewed attention on the limits of expression in a nation that will host the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup. It also highlights the challenge many migrant laborers face when agreeing to the opportunity of steady work in Gulf Arab states, in exchange for long shifts doing menial work in the shadows of skyscrapers they helped build.

Supporters say Qatari security forces detained Bidali late on May 4 and have not provided information on where he is.

The Qatari government, responding to questions Tuesday from The Associated Press, described Bidali as being "taken into custody and placed under investigation for violating Qatar's security laws and regulations." The government declined to offer specifics on the arrest, where he was



In this May 15, 2019 file photo, a man walks along the waterfront, in Doha, Qatar.

Associated Press

being held, whether he received consular assistance and what potential charges he was facing.

Qatar has "made a lot of steps ... to reform its labor systems," said James Lynch, a director at the London-based group FairSquare Research and Projects, which advocates for migrant workers in the Middle East. "Yet when we have a migrant worker speaking out about his experience, sharing his experience and calling for change in a fully

peaceful manner, we see them being shut down and disappeared."

Bidali, 28, worked 12-hour days as a security guard. In his spare time, he wrote under the pen name "Noah" about his experiences as a guard, including trying to improve his worker accommodations. His essays offered plaudits for Qatar at times as a "trendsetter in many areas."

However, he didn't hold back in describing the cramped bedrooms some

of his compatriots shared with up to 10 men in a room or the frustration of being unable to afford the "luxury of privacy" that white-collar Western expatriates and Qataris themselves enjoy. "Why should intimacy, and even family life, be reserved for the privileged nationalities and financially affluent?" he asked in one article.

The cause of Bidali's detention remains unclear. Days earlier, he spoke and briefly appeared in a video con-

ference with civil society and trade union groups describing his experiences. Activists say he clicked on a suspicious internet link as well during that time. Gulf Arab states widely use spy software and hacks to monitor possible dissenters, but it's unclear who targeted him.

There also was a recent post in which he criticized by name Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the wife of Qatar's former emir and the head of the Qatar Foundation. Bidali worked as a security guard for GSS Certis at a development under the Qatar Foundation. The foundation did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

An employee at GSS Certis who gave his name as Puvan said he didn't know where Bidali was.

"We were told that this is still under investigation so have no detail on that," he said. Security guards in Qatar at two companies also recently held what they described as strikes over pay and labor issues. Only Qatari nationals with the General Union of Workers of Qatar have the right to strike, according to the Washington-based group Freedom House. □

Israel accuses Chinese state TV of 'blatant antisemitism'

BEIJING (AP) — Israel's Embassy in China is protesting what it describes as "blatant antisemitism" on a program run by the overseas channel of state broad-

caster CCTV discussing the ongoing violence in Gaza and elsewhere.

In a tweet, the embassy said "we have hoped that the times of the 'Jew's

controlling the world' conspiracy theories were over, unfortunately antisemitism has shown its ugly face again." "We are appalled to see blatant antisemitism expressed in an official Chinese media outlet," the tweet said.

On the Tuesday CGTN broadcast, host Zheng Junfeng questioned whether U.S. support for Israel was truly based on shared democratic values, saying "some people believe that U.S. pro-Israeli policy is traceable to the influence of wealthy Jews in the U.S. and the Jewish lobby on U.S. foreign policy makers." "Jews dominate finance and and internet sectors," Zheng says, speaking in English. "So do they have the powerful lobbies some

say? Possible." Zheng then accused the U.S. China's top geopolitical rival — of using Israel as a "beachhead" in the Middle East and a as proxy in its campaign to defeat pan-Arabism. Spokesperson Erez Katz Volovelsky said Wednesday the embassy had nothing to add to its tweet and had so far received no reply from CGTN, which CCTV operates for foreign audiences, similar to Russia's RT. There was no immediate comment from CCTV and Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said he was "not aware of the situation."

"China has repeatedly stated its position on the Palestine-Israel situation," Zhao told reporters at a

daily briefing. China has long been a strong backer of the Palestinian cause and in recent days the Foreign Ministry has castigated the U.S. for blocking a statement in the United Nations Security Council condemning the violence.

Yet, since establishing formal diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992, Beijing has nurtured close economic, technological and military ties, including the purchase of early model Israeli drones.

Judaism is not one of China's officially recognized religions and stereotypes about Jews as shrewd businesspeople and market manipulators are common among the Chinese public. □



China's state broadcaster CCTV news broadcasters read news at a media center during a news conference on the eve of the annual legislature opening session in Beijing on March 4, 2021. I

Associated Press

Colombia rebel group claims leader 'Jesus Santrich' slain

By MANUEL RUEDA

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

A rebel leader who abandoned the 2016 peace accord with Colombia's government and had been at large for three years was killed by Colombian troops in Venezuela, his new armed group said Tuesday. Seuxis Hernandez known more commonly by his nom de guerre of Jesus Santrich was one of the chief negotiators for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in peace talks with the Colombian government. But he gave up on the peace deal less than two years following its signing after he was indicted in the U.S. for alleged cocaine trafficking.

In a statement posted on its website, Santrich's new rebel group, the Second Marquetalia Movement, said the 53-year-old insurgent was killed Monday by a Colombian commando unit that illegally entered Venezuelan territory.

The group said Santrich was riding in a vehicle in the western Venezuelan state of Zulia when he was attacked with grenades and gunfire by Colombian soldiers. The troops cut off Santrich's pinky finger before returning to Colombia in a yellow helicopter, the statement said.

Colombia's government



In this May 30, 2019 file photo, former rebel leader Seuxis Hernandez, also known as Jesus Santrich, opens his arms during a press conference at the FARC party headquarters after he was freed from his second detention in connection with a drug case in Bogota, Colombia.

Associated Press

did not immediately comment on the group's claim, which would constitute a major breach of Venezuela's sovereignty and heighten tensions with President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government. There also was no comment from the Venezuelan government.

Earlier Tuesday, Colombia's defense minister said the government was trying to confirm reports that Santrich had been killed in a battle between rebel groups operating in Venezuela.

Several other versions of

Santrich's death were published by Colombian media, including one account that said he was killed by mercenaries who wanted to capture him and claim a \$10 million reward offered by the U.S. State Department last year.

Santrich was a member of leftist youth groups in Colombia and entered the FARC in the early 1990s, after one of his fellow student leaders was killed by a Colombian police officer in the city of Barranquilla. Santrich was going blind from a genetic condition by the time the rebel group

began peace talks with Colombia's government, but had established himself as one of the group's leading ideologues.

Soon after the peace accord between the FARC and Colombia's government was signed, Santrich ran into problems with law enforcement. He was arrested in April 2018 after U.S. authorities in New York charged him with conspiring to traffic 10 tons of cocaine to the United States. The charges were based on videos and audio recordings obtained by undercover agents who met

with Santrich in 2017, prosecutors said.

But Santrich was released from jail before he could be extradited after Colombia's peace tribunal determined that U.S. authorities had not provided enough evidence. Under the terms of the peace deal, former rebels cannot be extradited for crimes committed during the war, but can be held responsible for any crimes committed afterwards.

Santrich, who accused the Colombian government of attempting to frame him, briefly took possession of a congressional seat awarded to the FARC as part of the peace deal. But during a visit to a village for former rebels near the border with Venezuela, he abandoned his security detail and disappeared.

In August 2018, he appeared on a Youtube video in which a group of former FARC rebels brandishing machine guns announced that they would continue to fight the government, accusing it of failing to fulfill promises made in the peace accord.

They called their new organization the Second Marquetalia Movement in a nod to the peasant village that in the 1960s gave birth to the original FARC guerrilla movement. □

Turkey bans polyethylene plastic imports

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY

Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey has imposed an import ban on ethylene polymer plastic waste as environmental groups sound the alarm on the world's plastic consumption and lack of effective recycling.

In an amendment published in Turkey's Official Gazette on Tuesday, the Trade Ministry added ethylene polymer plastics to its list of waste materials that are illegal to import. The ban will take effect in 45 days.

The environmental group

Greenpeace Mediterranean welcomed the news, calling it a "very important step towards the goal of zero waste importation" as set out by Turkey's Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. The group said 74% of the plastic waste imported by Turkey last year will now be on the banned list.

In a visual investigation published this week, Greenpeace said plastic waste like shopping bags and packaging from the U.K. and Germany were being dumped and burned in southern Turkey.

"Around 241 truckloads of plastic waste come to Turkey every day from across Europe and it overwhelms us. As far as we can see from the data and the field, we continue to be Europe's largest plastic waste dump," said Nihan Temiz Atas, the biodiversity projects head of Greenpeace Mediterranean.

The environment minister, Murat Kurum, said 152 waste facilities were audited in southern Adana province after "undesirable images were revealed." Twenty-nine of them shut down, 32 were



Plastic waste among other items at an illegal garbage dump near Alibeykoy Dam on the outskirts of Istanbul, Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Associated Press

financed and criminal complaints filed against businesses that were causing pollution. He said Wednesday monitoring would continue in all recycling

processes. Kurum added Turkey didn't import garbage and added that the import of mixed plastic waste was outlawed in 2021. □

The Kitchen Table enters sixth year of gastronomic success on NEW location: A very fine culinary journey of Caribbean and Peruvian fusion cuisine

EAGLE BEACH — The Kitchen Table is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting- at your- best-friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. Are you looking for something different, an ecstatic foody trip, than this is where you need to go.

The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.45PM. Around 7.00PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant

Asi Es Mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. "This is an amazing experience," says Robert

J. Giordanella from New York. "The food is truly divine," shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

It is all about consistency

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

Peruvian touch

In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world's best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the Worlds Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today's gastronomy.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchentable-inaruba.com or call them at +297-280 7117. □



Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
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Website: www.pinchosaruba.com



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Locations: The Cove Mall (8AM-9PM) and Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:30AM-12:30PM).

One of the Top 10 Romantic Hotels in the World is in Aruba

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – May 18, 2021 – For the third straight year, guests worldwide have once again crowned Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort as one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World according to Tripadvisor.

The world's largest travel review site unveiled its Best of the Best Traveler's Choice Awards 2021 this week. With 98% of its Tripadvisor reviews being the coveted 5-Bubbles status, Bucuti & Tara's guests are wooed with the dreamy couples' hideaway. For the sixth year in a row, Tripadvisor also named the adults-only enclave as the No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean. Bucuti & Tara continues to be ranked No. 1 Hotel in Aruba in the Top 10 Hotels in the Caribbean. "We are tremendously grateful to the Tripadvisor community for these 2021 Travelers' Choice Awards in recognition for the world-class vacation experience guests enjoy at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort," shares Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans. "The Bucuti Associates find new ways every day to continue enhancing our guests' stays and being top rated so many years running is an honor we hold dearly." Perfecting the romantic vacation Global winners span Australia, the Maldives, Seychelles, Spain, and beyond, with Bucuti & Tara in the Top 10 for perfecting the most romantic, fulfilling vacations for couples. Tripadvisor reviews for the Aruba resort highlighted the outstanding service, stunning white sand beach, pampering staff, sublime tranquil setting. Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans takes pride in personally replying to every Tripadvisor review – all 7,207

to date. The resort team takes every comment seriously and as Biemans shared just this week with a reviewer, "we consider every comment and tweak, and adjust, and change in the hope to exceed every guests' expectations." Guilt free stay with regenerative travel experience

With the return to travel, comes an increase in demands for regenerative travel – or leaving a place better than it was found. During the pandemic-induced downtime in travel, consumer interest in a safer, more sustainable experience that protects for future generations is growing in popularity. Bucuti & Tara's love story for its guests carries over to its commitment to the planet. It is the Caribbean's first and only carbon-neutral hotel and continues to hold the most eco-certifications. Its relentless engagement of providing the safest setting for guests, safest workplace for staff and vendors, and actively caring for its community puts it at the forefront of the profile of travelers eagerly returning as evidenced by the resort's rapidly increasing reservations. Guests are returning to a new doctor-developed, high-tech, hospital-grade COVID-19 safety and health protocols that protect themselves and the environment; a new Authentic Aruban & Caribbean Buffet option that island locals are already raving about; a new Vegan menu for the increased demands in plant-based dining; renovations and even a new endangered sea turtle nest countdown calendar for an up-close encounter with Aruba's earliest visitors. To learn more, visit Bucuti.com. □

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first CarbonNeutral®/net zero hotel in the Caribbean in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World, No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean (third consecutive year), No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean (sixth straight year) and No. 3 Hotel for Service in the Caribbean. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of the Year. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World." Now home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience thanks to its physician-developed COVID-19 safety protocols and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guestrooms, suites, and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest; freshwater infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad with Skype for use during stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge, and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the newly renovated open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily along with the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is TAG Approved® as a LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum, and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe.



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For reservations or more information, visit our
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Aruba's Aloe

ORANJESTAD — The aloe plant has been grown on Aruba since the mid-1800. The climate and the dry soil are particularly suitable for the aloe culture. The plant flourishes well here: the Aruban aloe has an aloin content of 22 %, while the content of aloin in the rest of the world is 15% at the most.

The flourishing of the aloe culture in Aruba was under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871). That's why the road that leads from downtown through the aloe fields was named after him. In the 19th century, an aloe plantation was also constructed in Socotora; Socotora has probably been named after the island of Sokotra or Socotora, at the time a British island in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Yemen. That island lies on the same degree of longitude as Aruba and aloe is grown there too. The legend says that Alexander the Great, on the recommendation of Aristotle, conquered this island for the aloe that he used to cure the wounds of his soldiers.

On the aloe plantation Mon Plaisir, owned by the Frenchman Louis Bazin, a for its time modern steam driven cooking installation was installed, in the beginning of 1900. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin resin that was mainly used for the production of laxatives. The aloin was exported



abroad, mainly to New York, but also to Hamburg and to London. The resin from the Antilles (called 'Curaçao resin' at the time) was one of the best in the world and more expensive than the other types on the market. Aruba's share in the export of 'Curaçao resin' was over 90%. In the economy of that time, before the arrival of the oil industry, aloe meant a reasonable source of income, in particular for the small 'cunucero' (farmer). In times of unemployment – de dry season – the aloe culture was a good source of existence. In the beginning of 1900, the first scientific research is done on the aloe plant. This confirmed clearly the healing effect of aloin on sun-

burn and other burns. The arrival of the oil industry had a big impact on the labor market on Aruba and the aloe culture got a bit on the background. It was only after World War II that the aloe culture was resumed. In 1949 Casey Eman founded the first aloe factory of Aruba, under the name of Aruba Aloe Products Company. At the time, the aloe juices were locally processed to aloin and shipped to the United States. In 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to about 15.000 pounds or 30% of the total world production. Recently, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander has granted the right to use the Royal Designation to the Aruban company Aruba Aloe



Balm NV. It is the first time since the introduction of the Royal Designation by King William I in 1815 that the designation has been awarded to an organization in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, handed over the Certificate and the Royal Decree belonging to the predicate to the owners of Aruba Aloe Balm NV. The Royal Designation is an award that can be awarded to associations, foundations, institutions or large companies. It means that the organization may add the Royal Designation to the name and include the Royal Crown in the logo. It symbolizes the King's respect, appreciation and trust towards the recipient. □

Source: <http://www.historiadiaruba.aw>

Prohibited by law:

Tourist leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals

ORANJESTAD — For the last months the customs department at the airport intercepted many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals as souvenirs.

Conform the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is completely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba, this in order to protect our environment.

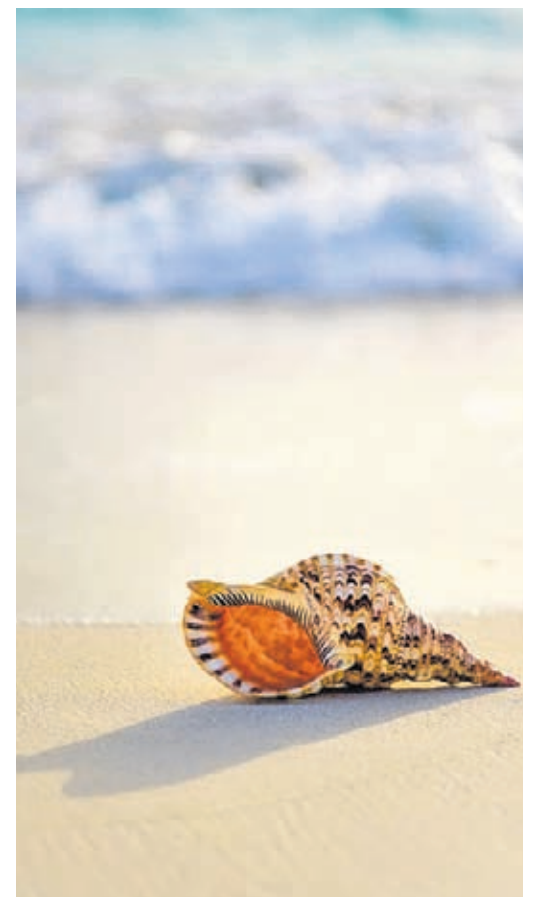
Seashells belong by the seashore not in your suitcase

Collecting seashells, coral, and beach sand to take home may seem like an innocent token of your stay on the island, but be aware that it is against the law in Aruba; these items will be confiscated by customs and a fine will be imposed.

Help us sustain the delicate ecosystem of our coastlines and beaches by leaving all shells, sand, and coral in place.

The high amount of seashell, sand and corals confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the once selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport the tourist also faces a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop selling these to our tourist. We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals. Let's all protect what is ours! □



Paycheck advance apps: What to know before you download

By **ANNIE MILLERBERND** of **NerdWallet**

Paycheck advance apps let users borrow a small amount of their expected earnings, usually in exchange for a small fee, and repay it on their next payday.

It seems like an attractive offer if you need extra cash between paychecks, and millions of users have accepted it. While it's possible to use these apps without harming your finances, some consumer advocates say they can lead to a cycle of debt.

If you're thinking of using a paycheck advance app, here's what to know before you download.

FEES FRAMED AS TIPS

When Jose Polanco uses the Earnin app to borrow from his upcoming paycheck, the app asks him if he wants to leave a tip.

The New York school administrator says he gives the app \$8 for the \$100 he usually borrows. He says he's persuaded by the message the app displays that leaving a bigger tip helps pay for users who can't afford to tip at all.

Optional tips are a common way these apps reframe fees. While usually not required, they're frequently encouraged.

Earnin CEO Ram Palaniappan says tips let the user decide what the service is worth to them rather than requiring a fee they may not be able to afford.



This Oct. 8, 2019, photo shows the Apple Pay app on an iPhone in New York.

Associated Press

Some advances come with additional fees. Dave, another paycheck advance app, has three optional fees: a monthly \$1 subscription fee, an express fee to get your money faster and a tip.

For a couple hundred dollars — the maximum amount you can borrow from most apps — the fees aren't as high as most payday loans or overdraft fees. But asking the user to decide how much to pay doesn't give them a chance to evaluate the full cost of borrowing in the way displaying an annual percentage rate would, says Marisabel Torres, director of California policy at the Center for Responsible

Lending.

"Not calling it a fee and framing it as a tip, that's actually disingenuous to the user because then the amount that that product actually costs you is muddled," she says.

THE RISKS: OVERDRAFTS, CHRONIC BORROWING

To sign up with a paycheck advance app, users normally have to provide proof of their pay schedule and income, and often access to their bank accounts so the app can withdraw the money they owe when they get paid.

Some of the apps say they'll monitor your bank account and try to avoid a debit if your balance is too low. Debiting a balance that's

too low can cause an overdraft fee — a fee some apps market themselves as an alternative to — and you could need to borrow again.

It's not yet clear how often app usage triggers an overdraft fee, says Alex Horowitz, senior research officer with the Pew Charitable Trusts.

But an April report from the Financial Health Network found that 70% of consumers who used a service to access their earnings early returned to use them consecutively — behavior that's common with payday loans, he says.

"It's not just that they're using it multiple times in a year, it's that they're using

it multiple times in a row," Horowitz says.

"That indicates that they couldn't repay it without taking another advance shortly after to cover their bills."

NOT A PERMANENT SOLUTION

You may have cheaper alternatives if you need to borrow money, Torres says. Credit unions and some banks offer small-dollar loans that are repaid in affordable monthly installments. A friend or family member may be able to lend you the money and let you repay it over time.

There isn't enough research to know if getting an advance from an app leaves consumers better or worse off, says Nakita Cuttino, a visiting assistant professor at Duke University School of Law whose research focuses on financial services and financial inclusion.

In 2019, the New York Department of Financial Services — along with several other states and Puerto Rico — announced an investigation into the earned wage access industry, of which these types of apps are a part, to determine whether they violate state lending laws.

When they're used to resolve a one-time emergency, Cuttino says, an advance may be cheaper and more convenient — and lowers the risk of overborrowing because of their low dollar amounts. □

Southwest says flights are more full and fares are rising

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines said Wednesday that bookings are improving and leisure-travel fares for June are approaching pre-pandemic levels, further signs that the airline industry is recovering from a deep slump.

The Dallas-based airline said the average April flight was 79% full, and it expects June flights to be 85% full. Southwest said it has sold 55% of the seats it expects to fill in June and 35% for July, which it called "fairly typical" booking patterns.

Southwest said in a regulatory filing that demand is still being driven mostly by leisure travelers. It said bookings by business travelers are ticking modestly higher but remain down about 80% from 2019 levels.

Southwest said operating revenue in April was 42% below April 2019. It forecast that the revenue decline compared with two years ago will narrow to between 20% and 25% by June.

The airline said it cut its "core" cash-burn rate to \$6 million a day in April and now expects to lose between \$1 million and \$3 million a day in the April-through-June quarter.

That is \$1 million better than a previous forecast. It expects to reach breakeven in June, excluding debt service, capital spending and some other costs.

The shares were down 2% in early trading about an hour before Wednesday's regular session. □



In this June 24, 2020 file photo, Southwest Airlines employee Oscar Gonzalez, right, assists a passenger at the ticket counter at Love Field in Dallas.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Last Supper attendee
- 6 Clear sky
- 11 Deal maker
- 12 Tremble
- 13 Neighbor of Togo
- 14 Goaded on
- 15 Evolution proponent
- 17 Lass
- 19 Big shot
- 20 Chemist's place
- 23 Comes up
- 25 Walk through water
- 26 Race ends
- 28 Yard units
- 29 Caress
- 30 Snaky shape
- 31 Fellow
- 32 Rent out
- 33 Deli meat
- 35 Spanish port
- 38 Friend of Han
- 41 Banish
- 42 Occupy
- 43 Onions' kin
- 44 Beginning

DOWN

- 1 Drinking spree
- 2 "That's gross!"
- 3 Editor's concerns
- 4 "The King and I" role
- 5 Goes without food
- 6 Outfit
- 7 Rotate
- 8 Crone
- 9 — out a living
- 10 Wine choice
- 16 Kind of thinking
- 17 Social blunder

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Yesterday's answer

- 18 Spring sign
- 20 Disappearing phone connections
- 21 "Hello" singer
- 22 Plague
- 24 Command to Fido
- 25 Take the prize
- 27 Serving
- 31 Loving looks
- 33 Necktie material
- 34 Primary
- 35 Animation frame
- 36 Sack
- 37 Game cube
- 39 Expected
- 40 Make a choice

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| 43 | | | | | | 44 | | | | |

5-20

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

W F F Q X I W U R B E G V I B E

E X I I T G X A B U Z R V R V D G E

R W B Z W U G Q V A T

— W F T Y W U G D T G X I W E

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN BUILD ON YESTERDAY'S SUCCESS OR PUT ITS FAILURES BEHIND AND START OVER AGAIN. — BOB FELLER



Kyle Pfau, an oysterman with Fat Dog Shellfish Co., dumps out a tray of adult "Ugliest" oysters from Maine onto a relocation area at Great Bay, Monday, May 3, 2021, in Durham, N.H.

Associated Press

Pandemic-hit oyster farmers turn to conservation to survive

DURHAM, N.H. (AP)—When the pandemic struck last year, oyster farmer Chris Burtis soon realized the restaurants that bought his oysters had mostly closed. Without a new market, his Ferda Farms faced potential economic ruin.

Then, Burtis heard The Nature Conservancy in partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts was buying millions of bivalves around the country for rebuilding decimated oyster reefs — and he quickly joined the effort. One recent day, he pulled up cages packed with eastern oysters on the New Meadows River in Brunswick, Maine, readying them to be trucked to oyster reefs on a patch of New Hampshire's Great Bay.

"Yeah, it really has been kind of a lifesaver to be able to keep some revenue coming in," said Burtis, decked out in orange waders as he poured the caged oysters into shipping crates.

The program, known as Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration or SOAR, is spending \$2 million from an anonymous donor to buy more than 5 million oysters in New England, the Mid-Atlantic and Washington state to restore shellfish reefs at 20 locations. The Nature Conservancy

is coordinating its efforts with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture, which offered similar but smaller programs in several states. The SOAR program was launched in October with a goal of helping more than 100 oyster farmers, many who lost as much as 90% of their business during the pandemic. Their bigger oysters — known as Ugliest because they're too large for the traditional raw bar market — were piling up on farms due to a lack of demand, and the growing surplus was causing prices to crater.

Farmers needed to find a way to offload the oysters — and the program was made to order. It paid an industry-negotiated price of about 20% below pre-pandemic prices.

"What had started off as a great year for oysters going out to the restaurants just immediately stopped once the restaurants closed," said Brian Gennaco, owner of the Dover, New Hampshire-based Virgin Oyster Company, which has sold oysters to the program and was among oyster farmers placing them in the Great Bay.

"We were on the farm looking around saying what are

we going to do," he said. "We have these oysters and they are going to out-grow the market if we can't get them off the farm."

The Nature Conservancy saw an opportunity to jump-start long-running efforts to rebuild oyster reefs, which the group says have declined an estimated 85% globally due to pollution, overharvesting, development and the emergence of several deadly pathogens. Oyster reefs provide habitat for fish and other wildlife as well as bolster shoreline protection. They also help clean polluted waterways, since the larger bivalves can filter as much as 50 gallons (189 liters) of water each day.

"It's the major silver lining that comes out of the global pandemic for oysters," said Alix Laferriere, the marine director for the conservancy in New Hampshire, who was on one of several boats in the Great Bay deploying more than 20,000 oysters. "The growers get money during a global pandemic and we can use their oysters for conservation," she said. "Great Bay used to be covered in oyster reefs. And because of historical overharvesting, disease and environmental stressors, a lot of those oyster reefs are gone. □"

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Countdown begins to discover where Columbus came from

MADRID (AP) — Was Christopher Columbus really from Genoa, in Italy? Or was he Spanish? Or, as some other theories have it, was he Portuguese or Croatian or even Polish? A definitive answer to the question of where the famous explorer came from could be just five months away as international scientists on Wednesday launched an effort to read the DNA from his remains and identify his geographic origin. Their findings are to be made public in October. Knowledge of the 15th-century navigator's early life is scant. A major breakthrough in establishing a fuller profile of the man who died 515 years ago came after DNA tests in 2003 established that bones in a tomb in the cathedral of Seville were

those of Columbus. But after that discovery, the research team from Spain's University of Granada that is leading the Columbus research decided to halt its investigation. The reason: DNA technology at the time was neither accurate nor reliable and required a significant amount of genetic material. After leaps in the sophistication of DNA testing in recent years, gene geography may now ascertain the rough area of a European person's ancestry. □

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10 things to be excited about at the movies this summer

By **JAKE COYLE** and **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writers

After more than a year of uncertainty and ever-fluctuating release schedules, there will be a summer movie season. The blockbusters are back. The smell of popcorn is in the air. Summer movies have always been stuffed with calamity and cataclysm, but this year, the existential threat is also off-screen. The pandemic has brought extensive changes for the movies, which have clung to life the last 14 months mainly on small screens. Can moviegoing be resuscitated? This summer will be a profound test of survival, and not just for Vin Diesel. But, for us at least, absence has only made our movie-going hearts grow fonder. Here are a few of the things we're looking forward to this summer at the movies.

SITTING IN THE DARK WITH STRANGERS

Please, please, please silence my phone. And while you're at it, burn my couch and toss my laptop in the ocean. Dim the lights. Light the screen. Our movie experiences these past 14 months have been isolated, muffled and downsized. As good as many of the movies have been, they've all been missing something that you can't get without a packed house and a big



Moviegoers sit in a socially distant seating arrangement at the AMC Lincoln Square 13 theater on the first day of reopened theaters in New York on March 5, 2021.

Associated Press

screen. That's where the movies live, and where we surrender. — Coyle.

MOVIE TRAILERS

It may sound silly since they are advertisements, but I'm really excited about watching trailers on the big screen again. Even though they're so, so accessible everywhere now, there's really nothing like seeing them in a theater and part of it is simply because you don't know what's coming. I still remember the thrill of seeing the Lucasfilm logo and realizing that we were about to watch that first

"The Phantom Menace" trailer and hearing Bernard Sumner's twangy guitar inviting us into the "Marie Antoinette" teaser, or the frenetic energy of Karen O's cover of "The Immigrant Song" for "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo." Even the Frou Frou-overlaid spot for "Garden State!" Some of these movies I went on to like and some I didn't, but I will always love the trailers. "West Side Story," "No Time to Die," blow us away. — Bahr.

ANTHONY RAMOS, MOVIE STAR

"In the Heights" is your movie of the summer. Jon M. Chu's exuberant adaptation of Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical (out June 11) is a blockbuster block party — a flat-out celebration of romance, Latino heritage, music, New York and, I expect, the communal thrill of the movies. It's going to blow the roof off. And while there are many performers in Chu's ensemble that deserve credit — including Leslie Grace, Corey Hawkins and Melissa Barrera — "In the Heights" gets its swagger from its charis-

matic lead.

As part of the original "Hamilton" cast and a supporting player in "A Star Is Born," a breakthrough has been coming for the 29-year-old actor. And he is, um, not throwing away his shot. — Coyle.

A THROWBACK ACTION ADVENTURE

Yes, we've been burned before by the Disney ride-turned movie concept but something about "Jungle Cruise" (in theaters and on Disney+ Premier July 30) has me unambiguously excited. The ride is not some personal favorite. But who wouldn't want to see an action adventure in the vein of "Romancing the Stone" with two majorly charismatic movie stars like Emily Blunt and Dwayne Johnson in chic safari wear? The idea of just seeing them riff off one another makes me smile. — Bahr.

CARS IN SPACE

Movies don't have to be complex. Just shoot some cars into space, OK? Is that REALLY so much to ask? Thankfully, the "Fast and the Furious" franchise has never been accused of over-thinking anything. Its ninth (ninth!) installment "F9" (June 25) promises one of the series' most ridiculous stunts yet, one that I can only assume will be one giant step-on-the-gas for mankind. — Coyle.

QUESTLOVE, MOVIE DIRECTOR

The concert movie of the summer comes from a familiar source in a new role. Amir "Questlove" Thompson, the musically ubiquitous Roots drummer, makes his directorial debut in "Summer of Soul (...or When the Revolution Could not Be Televised)," a foot-stomping time-capsule of a landmark 1969 Harlem concert series. The film, which opens July 2 in theaters and on Hulu, unearths little-seen performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly and the Family Stone, the Staples Singers and others from a summer-long festival known as "Black Woodstock." It goes without saying but: Play it loud. — Coyle. □

U.S. writer, feminist Gloria Steinem wins major Spanish prize



Gloria Steinem at the 2019 Women's Media Awards in New York in this Oct. 22, 2019 file photo show.

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish foundation on Wednesday awarded one of the country's most prestigious awards to U.S. writer and activist Gloria Steinem.

The jury that decides the Princess of Asturias Awards announced that Steinem has won its annual prize for communication and humanities.

It praised 87-year-old Steinem's long career in journalism, her bestselling books and her dedication to feminism since the 1960s, ensuring her place as "one of the most signifi-

cant and iconic figures of the women's rights movement" in the United States. The citation singled out her contribution to the legalization of abortion, pay equality and equal rights, as well as her fight against the death penalty, female genital mutilation and child abuse.

The 50,000-euro award (\$61,000) is one of eight prizes, including in the arts, social sciences and sports, handed out annually by a foundation named for Spanish Crown Princess Leonor. □

1st rule of baseball is 1st basemen don't pitch

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Columnist

Yermin Mercedes is hitting .346 with six home runs in his breakout rookie season, numbers that should win him praise from manager and everyone else rooting for the Chicago White Sox to make a run deep into October.

And, no, he's never read the unwritten rules of baseball. He can't, because, well, they're unwritten.

Tony La Russa seems to know them anyway, which isn't surprising. And La Russa seems intent on teaching them to his young slugger, who made what might otherwise be chalked up to a rookie mistake by hitting a 47 mph pitch thrown by a position player over the fence in Minnesota the other night.

Or maybe it wasn't a mistake after all. Unwritten rules, it seems, can be a bit baffling, even to those who think they know them.

That includes a septuagenarian manager who seems determined to prove every day that he is as out of touch with today's game as his many critics claim.

"I was upset because that's not the time to swing 3-and-0," La Russa said. "The Twins knew I was upset. With that kind of lead,



Chicago White Sox's Yermin Mercedes follows through on an RBI single off Minnesota Twins starting pitcher J.A. Happ during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 12, 2021, in Chicago.

Associated Press

it's about sportsmanship, respect for your opponent and respect for the game. There's going to be a consequence that he's going to have to endure within our family. It won't happen again. He's not going to do that again."

Maybe not, if only because Mercedes is a 28-year-old in his first year in the big leagues and pretty much has to do what his manager says. Imagine, if you will,

Yankees manager Aaron Boone saying something similar to Aaron Judge if he dared swing away on a slow fat one down the middle at just the wrong time. But if La Russa is looking to find someone to blame, there are plenty of other candidates available.

Major League Baseball, to begin with, for allowing the farce that is position players pitching in late innings. As much as fans increasingly

dislike pitchers still hitting in the National League, the game is far worse when players who aren't pitchers are sent out to take the mound.

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli for another. He's got 13 pitchers on his 26-player roster and had used only four of them when he trotted out first baseman Wilians Astudillo to pitch the ninth inning Monday of what was then a 15-4 blow-

out.

And, finally, the whole idea that there are unwritten rules in baseball, something that Mercedes seemed blissfully unaware of after the game.

"We're just having fun," Mercedes said. "It's baseball."

That's something La Russa should understand as well as anyone. He's been in the game all of his life, somewhat improbably now after being lured out of retirement at the age of 76 to manage the White Sox.

Take a look at the standings, and La Russa has done well, very well. The White Sox have the best record in the American League and they're a team loaded with young talent that is fun to watch.

But a few weeks ago, La Russa didn't even know one of the written rules when he mistakenly used closer Liam Hendriks as a baserunner to open the 10th inning in a 1-0 loss to Cincinnati.

That's a no-no even for a manager who deservedly gets some leeway because he won six pennants and three World Series in an amazing run of 36 years in the dugout.

To La Russa's point, Mercedes did do something major league players just don't do. □

Schmid claims 1st pro victory, Bernal extends Giro lead

MONTALCINO, Italy (AP) — Swiss cyclist Mauro Schmid won the 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday for the first victory of his professional career, and Egan Bernal extended his overall lead on the tricky gravel roads.

There were four unpaved sections that made up half of the final 70 kilometers (43.5 miles) of the Wine Stage of this year's race and Remco Evenepoel — one of the Giro favorites — struggled.

Evenepoel had been second overall, 14 seconds behind Bernal. But he was dropped on the third gravel section and Bernal took the opportunity to up the pace in the peloton. Evenepoel

crossed the line more than two minutes behind Bernal. Bernal, a former Tour de France champion, now holds a 45-second lead over Aleksandr Vlasov. Nobody else is within a minute of him, with third-place Damiano Caruso 1:12 behind. "Today we rode well and I increased my lead in the GC but the Giro is still long, all the big climbs are still to be ridden," Bernal said.

"I'm confident but I have to keep my feet firmly on the ground." Schmid, who rides for Qhubeka Assos, was part of an early breakaway on the 162-kilometer (101-mile) route from Perugia to Montalcino. He and Alessandro Covi attacked from the break with 10 kilo-

meters (6.2 miles) remaining and the 21-year-old Schmid won a sprint finish, edging the UAE Team Emirates rider by one second.

"Actually I cannot believe it," Schmid said. "I was only selected for the Giro team about two weeks before the race. My preparation was good but at the beginning of the season, I was not even thinking about riding a Grand Tour."

"In the last two stages I suffered a lot, but today I really wanted to go on the attack because I really like riding on gravel. In the breakaway, I felt I had good legs and I went for it." Harm Vanhoucke was third, 26 seconds behind Schmid. Bernal led the peloton over



Switzerland's Mauro Schmid celebrates winning the eleventh stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Perugia to Montalcino, Italy, Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Associated Press

the line, more than three minutes later, and ahead of all his main rivals.

Thursday's 12th stage fea-

tures four categorized climbs on the 212-kilometer (132-mile) route from Siena to Bagno di Romagna. □

Play-in games conjure tourney feel for NBA coaches, players

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Boston coach Brad Stevens tapped into his experience coaching Butler to back-to-back NCAA championship games to prepare his Celtics.

Steve Kerr is ready to play two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry nearly every minute if that's what it takes for the Golden State Warriors to get one win.

This is not how NBA players and coaches normally prepare for championship runs. Yes, this is the NBA postseason, but it's not the playoffs. It's the league's new play-in tournament.

LeBron James may not have been in anything like this since high school. For others, this has a March Madness feel to it.

"It's exciting," San Antonio



Golden State Warriors head coach Steve Kerr reacts during the first half of his team's NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in San Francisco, Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Associated Press

Spurs guard Dejounte Murray said. "It's one chance closer to get the opportu-

nity to make the playoffs. So win or go home game.

... You win and you move on, you lose you go home."

Just ask the Charlotte Hornets, whose season came to an abrupt end Tuesday night in the NBA's first play-in game after stumbling early and being pounded by the Indiana Pacers in what felt like an opening-round mismatch.

Welcome to the NBA's mini version of the NCAA Tournament: eight teams chasing four spots.

"We still have the opportunity to still make the playoffs," Memphis Grizzlies point guard Ja Morant said. "We know what's at stake. Just got to go out, handle business. Two games, one at a time."

Stevens has been through survive-and-advance tournaments with great success: He took Butler to the NCAA championship game in 2010 and 2011. This isn't exactly like those college-coaching days but close enough for him to draw a parallel.

"It's a little bit like the NCAA Tournament from the standpoint of quick turnaround," Stevens said before his Celtics secured the seventh seed with a 118-100 victory over the Washington Wizards. "We haven't been in this situation much."

Kerr is approaching these play-in games like one-game playoffs, much like a wild card or deciding game in the baseball postseason. That makes playing the newly crowned scoring champ every second possible — not something he would do during the regular season.

"It's an option now because we're in the thick of it and every game is crucial," Kerr said. "But that's about the limit, I would hesitate to play him much more than that. He has so much on his shoulders. It's not easy playing for 40 minutes the way he plays especially."

James might still be mad about the NBA's new postseason play-in format, yet he and the defending NBA champs are in the middle of one of the biggest showdowns Wednesday night. □

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